



Forest Service

George Washington &
Jefferson National Forests
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News Release

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Forest Service Extends Comment Period for Surveying Additional Routes for the Proposed Mountain Valley Pipeline

(March 31, 2015) Roanoke, VA-- The Forest Service is extending the comment period on surveying two additional areas for the proposed Mountain Valley Pipeline. The two additional areas include a 5.3-mile segment and a 6.2-mile segment, crossing the Jefferson National Forest in Craig, Montgomery, and Roanoke counties, Virginia and Monroe County, West Virginia. Comments are now being accepted through Friday, April 17, 2015. Comments should focus on concerns about surveying on the national forest. The Federal Regulatory Energy Commission (FERC), as the lead federal agency, will conduct in-depth environmental analysis on the construction of the pipeline, with many opportunities for public involvement.

Granting this extension will give citizens of Craig, Montgomery, Roanoke, and Monroe counties opportunities to discuss these alternative routes with Mountain Valley Pipeline, LLC prior to submitting comments on the survey to the Forest Service.

Proposed environmental surveys include surveying wetlands, water, soil, and suitable habitat for sensitive species, including federally listed threatened and endangered plants and animals. Surveys will also record and document cultural resources and invasive species. The Forest Service will use public comments and an environmental review to decide whether to issue a permit for the environmental and cultural resource surveys on the Jefferson National Forest.

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Activities associated with the proposed surveys include:

- Survey crews walking the corridor. No vehicles will be used except to access the corridor using public and existing Forest Roads.
- Flagging will be placed along the center-line.
- Using hand tools to remove minor amounts of brush to navigate the route; saplings or limbs removed will be less than two inches in diameter.
- Placing biodegradable survey ribbon, flagging, survey stakes, and pin flags within the corridor and removed after all surveys are conducted.
- Conduct test pits for wetland surveys and shovel tests for cultural resource surveys. Soil will be replaced each day prior to leaving the sample site.
- Identification and documentation of cultural resources, sensitive species habitat, and invasive species. No flora, fauna, or cultural resources will be removed.

Comments must be received by April 17, 2015 and may be submitted by:

Email: comments-southern-georgewashington-jefferson@fs.fed.us

FAX: (540) 265-5145

Mail or Hand Deliver:

USDA Forest Service
Mountain Valley Pipeline Survey Comments
5162 Valleypointe Parkway
Roanoke, VA 24019

Hand-delivered comments must be received during our normal business hours of Monday through Friday 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

More information, including maps and specifics of survey activities can be found on our website at <http://www.fs.usda.gov/gwj/> or by calling (540) 265-5100.

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